

DECEMBER 20, 2015

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



MICAH 5:1-4A

PSALM 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

HEBREWS 10:5-10

LUKE 1:39-45

REFLECTION

Today's Second Reading tells us that we are each "consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Hebrews 10:10). Our free will—because of our Baptism—is connected to God's will. We still have a choice, but because of our Baptism there is a greater plan and direction for each of us to be holy. In the Old Testament, people sacrificed animals as an offering, a gift, to God. Today's reading says we are to offer our will, our heart, to God. And the example of this holiness is beautifully seen in the Gospel account in the relationship of Mary and her cousin, Elizabeth. Elizabeth recognized Christ, literally, within Mary. When we live according to the special gifts God gives each of us, others can see Christ in us.



"REAL"

NICHOLE NORDEMAN

[www.youtube.com/
watch?v=aLQgnYxxMcM&
list=RDalQgnYxxMcM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLQgnYxxMcM&list=RDalQgnYxxMcM)

ACTION

Mary was a young, unwed mother. This is a present-day reality for many, as well. Consider calling a women's shelter or the pro-life group at your parish and ask if there is a way to help young mothers and children. If you are crafty, get together with some friends and make blankets for either a mother or her child. As you make the blanket, pray in your heart that she is protected and willing to receive and feel the love of Christ in her life.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

● When someone asks you a question how do you respond? How can you be more present to your friends to help them see their giftedness?